

Fact Sheet

Aging and Disability Services Administration
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

September 2004

Fircrest Downsizing and RHC Consolidation Alternative Closure Plan

DDD Clients

Changes from 1994 to 2003

	1994	2003	% Change
Total	20,163	32,360	60%
Community	18,834	31,354	66%
RHC	1,329	1,006	(24%)
Fircrest	390	256	(34.4)

NOTE: As a result of Legislative downsizing in the current biennium, Fircrest should reach a census of around 190 residents.

Background

In the last 30 years, the focus of services addressing the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities has shifted from institutional settings to community-based settings. The change in focus is reflected by the growth of the community segment of the program serving individuals with developmental disabilities from 1994 to 2003. Fircrest and Region 4 have pursued a community discharge process both before and after the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision known as Olmstead. The trend since 1994 has resulted in a declining census at Fircrest. This biennium, the Washington State Legislature directed DSHS to downsize Fircrest further and to consolidate vacancies across all Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC).

Cottage Closure Schedule

I = ICF/MR Cottage
N = Nursing Cottage

Month/Year	Type
January 2006	N
February 2006	I
March 2006	N
May 2006	I
June 2006	N
July 2006	I
September 2006	N
October 2006	I
November 2006	N
January 2007	I
February 2007	N
March 2007	I

Closure Plan

A closure option has been developed for Fircrest residents. The plan for implementing this option, if it is selected by the Legislature, has four phases:

- 1) Planning activities from July 2005 to December 2005;
- 2) Close cottages at the rate of 3 every 4 months beginning in January 2006 and ending in March 2007;
- 3) Facility closure activities from April 2007 to June 2007; and,
- 4) Property caretaking from July 2007 until property is put to an alternative use.

Clients would be transferred to one of the other RHCs or to a community placement option.

Supports would be provided to clients, parents/guardians, and employees during the transition to closure.

Placement Of Fircrest Residents

	ICF/MR	Nursing
Lakeland	28	12
Rainier	42	
Yakima		16
Community	26	80

Placement of Fircrest Residents

Under this option, the estimated 204 residents of Fircrest, 96 ICF/MR and 108 Nursing, would be moved into either:

- Cottages at Lakeland Village, Rainier, or Yakima Valley,
- DDD Supported Living Programs, or,
- Programs that can meet the nursing needs of residents, e.g. Adult Family Homes and/or Nursing Homes.

One-Time Costs

Dollars in thousands

	2005-07	2007-09
Client Transition	\$2,721	
Community Start-up	1,060	
Cottage Open/Close	6,809	
Project Support	1,284	
Employee Impact	1,655	96
Employee Transition	2,549	28
One-time Costs	\$16,078	\$124

One-time Costs

The closure option proposes a number of activities dealing with the one-time costs of closing Fircrest. These include:

- Staff to allow for adequate and timely planning for the clients' transition, discharge, and admission to their new placements to protect their health and safety.
- Starting-up community programs,
- Support for the opening and closing of cottages,
- Management of the project, and,
- Support for affected employees who transition to other employment as a result of the closure of Fircrest.

The goal of each of these items is to allow for a safe and orderly transition of clients from Fircrest to their new placements, if this option is chosen.

Ongoing Costs

Dollars in thousands

	2005-07	2007-09
Cottage Operations	(\$5,907)	(\$14,520)
Fircrest Overhead	(6,208)	(26,977)
Community Programs	10,927	24,777
Community Clinic	4,145	4,524
Ongoing Costs	\$2,957	(\$12,196)

Ongoing Costs

The closure of Fircrest would result in both increases and decreases in costs within the ADSA operating budget. They include:

- A net decrease in cost of operating cottages within the RHC system since there will be fewer cottages;
- A decrease in overhead costs as building maintenance, administrative services, program support services, and others are eliminated;
- An increase in costs of community programs due to the addition of clients in community programs; and
- The funding of a clinic to provide primary care for community clients, along with consulting and outreach to build on the current service provider infrastructure.

For more information on this topic, please see the DDD Web Site and click on the following links

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/rhc.shtml>

- Project Support Unit
- Preliminary Transition Plan submitted to the Legislature on 1-21-04
- Fircrest Decision Package
- Employee Updates
- Additional links are added regularly

Additional Fact Sheets

There are three additional Fact Sheets that have been prepared related to the Fircrest Closure Alternatives. The first deals with Employee Transition and the second with Retention of Professional Licensed Services, both addressing the closure option. A third Fact Sheet describes the option of maintaining Fircrest with a population of approximately 200 residents. These can be found on the RHC Downsizing webpage shown in the sidebar.

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